House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

3/3/77

Dear Delegate Fauntroy,

So you have three "new witnesses" to the assassination of Dr. King! There was a time when I'd have been elated and would without question have taken your word. Just as by February 15, 1965 in concluding my first book on the JFK assassination I longed for a Congressional investigation of it.

Your mountain has labored for neigh onto six months without producing the tiniest mouse of reality or fact. Not you personally and alone. You collectively.

You alone are truly your brother's keeper, witness your refusal to interest himself in his killing for the few moment it then would have taken to return repeated and all unanswered phone calls. You soon we not alone in this. All the Members of the black caucus were totally indifferent when there was a book giving other than the official account of his killing. The chairman never responded when I went there to offer to explain my work to the Members in caucus or individually.

"Three new witnesses" and only when your gravy wagon of free publicity is about to dry up. I'll be happy if they are indeed "new" and "witnesses." I'll also be surprised.

So may you be if they are not and if this is just another exploitation of the martyr. Exploitation is hardly the word. This is indecency, flagrant public indecency. Latched as you have latched it - you personally - to the scavenging of the martyrs bones by others.

There is nothing in your personal record to lead me to believe you have cared enough to interest yourself enough to know what is or could be "new." There is much to lead me to believe that this commercialization of various forms is in the book you would not take time to read when justice could have been done as it is supposed to be done, in the courts. In this sense it would be new to you.

Now if you have in mind what I doubt very much, witnesses to the crime itself, then if they are new it will be spectacular. If they are for real, as nothing you have yet said is.

These are great tragedies throughout which all of you who might have helped establish truth were silent. Now when there is political benefit you are Claghorns.

You desecrate graves while you further debase our institutions.

You have also besmirched yourselves in howling as the running dogs of errant officialdom. You have served it well.

My belief is that you will redefine "new" and "witnesses." I mean to include Jerry Ray in this. I know about your contact with him. He is relevant only with the preconception of his brother's guilt, which puts you and J. Edgar Hoover in bed together.

Before I went to Memphis to continue my investigations I wrote Rev. Billy Kyles three times because I did not want to appear to be a honky and because it was a strange town to me in which I knew I would be unwelcome. I did go there a white and alone. I also managed to meeti with him and with an impressive Rev. Smith from Atlanta. I remember out meeting and our wet eyes I do not shame very well. I also remember my asking them to whom young blacks would turn for leadership when they had no reason to expect those who were cowards and worse when the black messiah was killed.

You will be fortunate if you come out of this without being known as Black Judas.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg